

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04372 091155Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 SS-15 SSO-00 /035 W  
-----048922 091447Z /45

R 091107Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2780  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 4372

STATE: PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

USIA FOR INA, IOR, IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN -MO  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS, AUG. 7-8

SUMMARY: VANCE TRIP RECEIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN WEEKEND PRESS; MANY ARTICLES DEVOTED TO RESUME AND SYNTHESIS OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS AND POSITIONS EXPRESSED TO DATE. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS CARRIES LENGTHY SIGNED EDITORIAL CALLING FOR DIRECT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS. TUNIS STATEMENTS BY PLO LEADER KHALED AL HASSAN WIDELY REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PRESS GIVE CONSIDERABLE FRONT-PAGE SPACE TO VANCE TRIP OVER WEEKEND, INCLUDING VARIETY OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND REFLECTIVE, SUMMARY ACCOUNTS OF CONTRASTING POSITIONS EXPRESSED AT EACH STOP SO FAR. MOST SIGNIFICANT ITEM IS SIGNED EDITORIAL BY DIRECTOR MOULAY AHMED ALAOUI OF SEMI-OFFICIAL "LE MATIN" AND "MAROC SOIR" WHICH APPEARED IN BOTH PAPERS. UNDER TITLE "FOR A PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFERENCE," ALAOUI OBSERVES THAT SUCCESSIVE WARS HAVE BENEFITTED ONLY THE ISRAELIS, THAT THE ARAB ADVANTAGE HAS ALWAYS LAIN IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. NOW THAT ALL ARAB STATES HAVE ACCEPTED THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, THE ISRAELIS

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IN TURN ARE OBLIGED TO RECOGNIZE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR NEED FOR A HOMELAND. THE PALESTINIANS, SAYS ALAOUI, HAVE ALREADY MADE A CONSIDERABLE GESTURE IN GRANTING DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL. THE TIME IS NOW RIPE FOR THE TWO PARTIES TO MEET FACE-TO-FACE. AND, HE CONCLUDES, THERE COULD BE NO BETTER VENUE FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS THAN RABAT, GIVEN HASSAN'S OVERTURES TO ISRAEL AND WORLD JEWISH LEADERS AND HIS RECOGNITION OF THE

COMMON GENIUS OF JEWS AND ARABS, "ALL SONS OF ABRAHM, GRAND-CHILDREN OF ISHMAEL AND ISAAC."

2. ELSEWHERE, PRO-GOVERNMENT "LE MATIN" TODAY HEADLINES "VANCE MISSION - PROGRESS ACHIEVED," OVER A COLLECTION OF WIRE SERVICE ITEMS INCLUDING THE STATEMENT OF INFORMATION ADVISOR TO P.M. BEGIN THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT TAKE UP ANY QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE DURING VANCE'S VISIT. IN CONTRAST, SISTER PUBLICATION "MAROC SOIR" HEADLINES "VANCE MISSION AT AN IMPASSE" OVER AFP REPORT THAT IN ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON THE WORKING GROUP APPROACH, BILATERAL AMERICAN-ISRAELI AND AMERICAN-ARAB TALKS WOULD BE HELD IN NEW YORK.

3. OPPOSITION PRESS REMAINS EVEN MORE SKEPTICAL. IN SUCCESSIVE HEADLINES SUNDAY AND MONDAY, "L'OPINION" (ISTIQLAL) SAYS "CARTER'S CONTRACTS WITH THE ARABS WILL BE FRUITLESS IF THERE IS NO CONTACT WITH THE PALESTINIANS" AND "NO PERCEPTIBLE CLOSING OF THE GAP BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION." ISTIQLAL'S "AL ALAM" SEES VANCE FACING THE GREATEST OBSTACLE TO RECONVENING GENEVA WHEN HE MEETS ISRAELI LEADERS. COMMUNIST "AL BAYANE" POINTS UP DIVERGENCES BETWEEN VANCE AND ASSAD, BUT GIVES EVEN MORE SPACE TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND CAIRO.

COMMENT: ALAOUI EDITORIAL IN PRESS WHICH IS RECOGNIZED AS MOUTHPIECE FOR OFFICIAL POLICY IS FIRST OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY COMMENT WHICH HAS APPEARED LOCALLY, ALL OTHER COVERAGE HAVING UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN LIMITED TO WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE AND EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. ALAOUT'S CALL FOR DIRECT ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS, WITH RABAT AS VENUE, REFLECTS MOROCCO'S DESIRE TO KEEP CHANNELS OPEN TO ALL PARTIES IN MID-EAST DISPUTE, WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME MEDIATING ROLE BETWEEN JEW AND ARAB. MOFFAT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS, AUG. 7-8 SUMMARY: VANCE TRIP RECEIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN WEEKEND PRESS; MANY ARTICLES DEVOTED TO RESUME AND SYNTHESIS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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